

OTHER BUSINESS

17.1 Argentina presented the following statement to the Commission:

‘The Delegation of Argentina wishes to express its appreciation for the excellent performance of the Secretariat during this meeting. It is pleased to see that the efficiency and professionalism of the Secretariat’s staff has increased over the years. However, we would like to ask you, as Chairman of the Commission, to ensure that in future the Executive Secretary exercises extreme care when accepting modifications to drafts submitted by delegations with respect to their own statements to be included in the reports so that the Secretariat staff takes instructions only from their immediate superiors.

The Republic of Argentina reserves its right to respond after this CCAMLR meeting to the British note, which it rejects, and was distributed together with COMM CIRC 99/106 of 19 October 1999. In this note, the UK appears unaware that an error in the Secretariat’s translation of Argentina’s note, dated 6 August 1999 and distributed with COMM CIRC 99/83, had already been rectified in COMM CIRC 99/90. The UK makes inaccurate and incorrect references with respect to the waters surrounding the Malvinas/Falkland Islands. In this respect, Argentina reiterates on this occasion that it does not recognise the UK as a Coastal State in the Southwest Atlantic, nor in the Convention Area.

Argentina reserves its right to expand on the UK statement at a further stage.’

17.2 In response, the UK made the following statement:

‘Reference was made this morning by Argentina to inaccuracies in the United Kingdom’s note of 18 October replying to Argentina’s letter of 6 August. We have re-examined this matter very carefully. Our note, Mr Chairman, is wholly accurate.

The original letter of 6 August from Argentina contained two references to the Falkland/Malvinas Islands. Both references in our view were wholly inappropriate in a communication to this Commission. In the amended translation of the letter from Argentina which was circulated as COMM CIRC 99/90, there was deletion of one of those references to the Falkland Islands. But either deliberately, or otherwise, a reference to the Falkland Islands was retained in line 2 of that revision. The retention of that reference is in our view also inappropriate in a communication to this Commission.

It was from this point of departure that our note of 18 October was constructed. We contest that its contents are accurate.

However, Mr Chairman, we note the comments made by Argentina this morning and await any further communication on this matter.’

17.3 Argentina replied:

‘The Delegation of Argentina clearly does not agree with the statement made by the Delegation of the United Kingdom, where inaccurate and erroneous concepts are reiterated. Further to our statement presented in paragraph 17.1, the Delegation of Argentina recalls that the unilateral actions of the United Kingdom, which were challenged by Argentina in its note of 6 August 1999, refer exclusively to those carried out in the CCAMLR Area. Therefore, as soon as the error in the Secretariat’s translation was noticed, the Government of Argentina sought an

immediate rectification. The error consisted in an added reference to the Malvinas/Falkland Islands relating them to the unilateral actions mentioned above.

The sole reference made in the note to the Malvinas/Falkland, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, is valid because in that instance, the reference was made by Argentina in defence of its sovereign rights with respect to the subject of controversy. In this respect, the subject of controversy on sovereignty between the Republic of Argentina and the United Kingdom involves the three Southern archipelagos and surrounding waters.

The Delegation of Argentina rejects the concepts expressed by the British delegation and reaffirms its position as stated in paragraph 17.1.'

REPORT OF THE EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE COMMISSION

18.1 The Report of the Eighteenth Meeting was adopted.

CLOSE OF THE MEETING

19.1 Mr Scully, on behalf of the delegates, thanked the Chairman, Dr Muthunayagam, and the Secretariat for its support. Significant advances had been made during the meeting, including the establishment of the Catch Documentation Scheme. Dr Muthunayagam's leadership, patience and good humour had been greatly appreciated.

19.2 In closing the meeting, the Chairman thanked the Chairmen of the Scientific Committee (Dr Miller), SCOI (Mr Bryden) and SCAF (Mr Ybáñez Rubio), and the drafting groups on conservation measures (Mr Scully) and Catch Documentation Scheme (Dr Agnew). He also thanked all delegates for their participation and hard work.